

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 CCO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 DRC-01 INR-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 INRE-00 /077 W

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O R 091040Z NOV 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4279

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3452

ISLAMABAD FOR AMBASSADOR EILTS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG US

SUBJECT: REACTION TO SECRETARY'S VISIT

1. REACTION TO SECRETARY'S VISIT APPEARS TO BE MIXED. OUR SOUNDINGS HAVE INDICATED GENERAL FEELING OF RELIEF AND A MODERATE OPTIMISM AMONG EDUCATED MEMBERS OF EGYPTIAN PUBLIC. MANY EGYPTIANS APPEAR TO FEEL THAT UPGRADING OF US/EGYPTIAN RELATIONSHIP MEANS THAT CONCRETE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE POLITICALLY, AND WILL BE SEEN ON THE GROUND VERY SHORTLY.

2. ONE GROUP THAT APPEARS TO BE HIGHLY SKEPTICAL OF RESULTS OF SECRETARY'S VISIT IS THAT OF INTELLECTUALS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WITHIN AHRAM ESTABLISHMENT. SEVERAL AHRAM JOURNALISTS HAVE RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT EGYPT HAS GAINED, IF ANYTHING; AND, THEY HAVE ASKED, EVEN IF ACCEPTABLE TERMS WERE REACHED BETWEEN SADAT AND KISSINGER, HOW CAN IT BE EXPECTED THAT THE SECRETARY, BACKED BY A WEAK PRESIDENT, CAN GUARANTEE THEM?

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HEYKAL HIMSELF HAS TOLD ONE CORRESPONDENT (DE BORCHGRAVE) THAT US

MANEUVER TO OBTAIN EGYPTIAN/ISRAELI AGREEMENT IS DELIBERATE ATTEMPT AT PROCRASTINATION. HEYKAL REPORTEDLY SAID THAT TERMS OF AGREEMENT "WILL NOT WORK", AND THAT HE HAS TOLD SADAT THIS.

3. MATTERS HAVE NOT BEEN HELPED BY APPARENT SPOILING ROLE BEING PLAYED BY COLUMNIST JOSEPH KRAFT. KRAFT WAS OVERHEARD TELLING EGYPTIANS THAT HE THINKS US HAS SOLD SADAT A BILL OF GOODS, AND THAT SADAT HAS GIVEN MORE THAN HE NEEDED TO UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. KRAFT HAS LARDED THESE REMARKS WITH SLURS ON SECRETARY'S INTEGRITY.

SMITH

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Message Attributes

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